



PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION OF N. J. INC.
P.O. BOX 9357
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104

September 23, 1991

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Mr. Eugene Campbell
Executive Superintendent
Newark Board of Education
3 Cedar Street
Newark, New Jersey 07103

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thank you for agreeing to meet with representatives of the Puerto Rican Educators Association (PREA) of New Jersey on September 25, 1991. As you know, the Puerto Rican Educators Association has, for nearly twenty years, sought to represent the best interests of our participants, as well as those of the larger Puerto Rican community in the state of New Jersey. It is our hope at this time that we can open up avenues for cooperative dialogue on issues of concern between the Puerto Rican community and the Newark school district.

The Puerto Rican Educators Association would like to pose certain issues that are of concern in the Newark school district. They are as follows:

- The alarming drop-out rate among Puerto Rican and other Hispanics in the intermediate and secondary schools.
- The lack of Puerto Rican educators in leadership positions at all levels, particularly at administrative positions at the central office.
- The need to infuse Puerto Rican and Latin-American history and culture at all levels is consistent with the district goal of multi-cultural education.
- The need to augment the district's resources to Bilingual Education, in light of a growing and varied non-English speaking student population.

*Noted, 9/25/91
J. G. M.*


The Puerto Rican Educators Association stands ready to make constructive contributions to efforts by the Newark school district to address these concerns. Specifically, we propose that the district adopt a Hispanic Agenda for the 1989-90 school year encompassing specific commitments that address the above concerns. Such an agenda should include:


1. The appointment of a Puerto Rican on the Superintendent's level, whose duties could possibly include overseeing Hispanic affairs for the district.
2. The appointment of Puerto Ricans in policy positions in the areas of Basic Skills and Curriculum.
3. Efforts at partnership with community organizations, such as PRRI, ASPRA, FOCUS, and Casa de Don Pedro, to ease the drop-out rate among Hispanics, as well as to re-enroll drop outs back into the school system or alternative programs.
4. The development of on-site coordinators on an elementary level, and department chairpersons on the secondary level in schools with large number of bilingual students.

The Puerto Rican Educators Association would also see the creation of a Hispanic Task Force to assist in the achievement of these goals, as a very positive development in the Newark school district's commitment to the Hispanic community. The creation of such a task force, in conjunction with concrete actions, would be an excellent way for the district to contribute to Hispanic Heritage activities (September-November).

The Puerto Rican Educators Association stands ready to assist in these efforts, as well as to mobilize the Hispanic leadership in support of such an agenda.

Sincerely,


Joseita Colon-Jorge, President
733-6804; 432-4322


Jose E. Velazquez, Vice-President
733-6807; 484-4791



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Notes

October 3, 1991

Ms. Janette Colon-Jorge, President
Mr. Jose E. Velazquez, Vice President
Puerto Rican Educators Association of N.J., Inc.
P.O. Box 9257
Newark, New Jersey 07104

Dear Ms. Colon-Jorge and Mr. Velazquez:

This letter memorializes our meeting of September 25, 1991. There were four (4) distinct areas that we were able to discuss and develop future plans for follow-up.

I. DROPOUT RATE

- A need to expand an alternative program for students in grades four through eight who are having difficulties.
- The possibility of expanding the concept that is used for seventh and eighth graders at Luis Munoz Marin School going to OGB.
- Reaching out to community organization seeking individuals to serve as mentors.

II. PERSONNEL

- Resumes to be forwarded to the Executive Superintendent.
- Organize program for individuals interested in seeking administrative certification.



TOGETHER WE WILL EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN



Ms. Janette Colon-Jorge
Mr. Jose E. Salasquez
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III. CURRICULUM

- a. To review our curriculum to insure inclusion of Hispanic history and contributions.
- b. The need to review the curriculum office for Hispanic curriculum specialist.

I appreciate your review of the above concerns. Also, please call my office for a followup meeting.

Very truly yours,


Eugene C. Campbell
Executive Superintendent

ECG:rc

cc: G. A. Jara
G. Gutierrez